

Weekly Weather Crop Report

In cooperation with

Mississippi Department of
Agriculture and Commerce

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Week Ending May 2, 2004

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According to the Mississippi Agricultural Statistics Service, there were 4.1 days suitable for fieldwork for the **week ending May 2, 2004**. Weekend rain showers were welcomed by farmers statewide, especially by those in the southern and coastal regions. The rainfall proved to be favorable for emerging crops as well as cattle grazing on ryegrass and spring grass. Despite slightly cooler than normal temperatures, emerging row crops are in good condition. Soil moisture was rated 5 percent short, 72 percent adequate and 23 percent surplus.

Progress In Percentages						Conditions in Percentages				
Item	Event	This Week	Last Week	2003	5-Yr Avg	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Corn	Planted	97	96	98	97	0	1	24	58	17
	Emerged	92	88	92	87					
Cotton	Planted	54	25	53	39	--	--	--	--	--
	Emerged	25	4	24	17					
Rice	Planted	75	59	64	63	--	--	--	--	--
	Emerged	57	21	32	32					
Sorghum	Planted	75	50	63	57	--	--	--	--	--
	Emerged	50	29	42	33					
Soybeans	Planted	78	65	61	46	--	--	--	--	--
	Emerged	57	37	43	30					
Wheat	Heading	97	90	88	92	0	3	39	41	17
Hay (Cool Season)	Harvested	27	23	46	33	--	--	--	--	--
Watermelons	Planted	80	71	87	78	0	0	53	42	5
Cattle						1	5	26	54	14
Pasture						1	13	34	46	6

County Agent Comments

"Heavy rains at the end of the week halted planting. Most of the cool-season hay that was harvested this past week was rained on. We are seeing some insect pressure on roses and young ornamentals."

— Tim Needham, Tippah

"Rain showers stopped fieldwork late Thursday evening. Most crops are planted with the exception of wheat-soybean double cropping and emergence has been good. Flushing of rice is beginning to take place due to dry soil."

— Tommy Baird, Sunflower

"A total of approximately 1.5 inches of rain fell during the week. Rains over the weekend halted field planting until at least midweek. Cotton and soybean planting should be in full swing by week's end. Pastures are improving with the recent rains."

— Ed Williams, Oktibbeha

"Weekend rains were welcome. We are in pretty good shape for planting to begin in earnest. Pastures already look better. Ryegrass for hay will not be as good this year due to short moisture in the spring. Cattle look good and are benefiting from spring grass and ryegrass. Gardens are off to a slow start."

— Lee Taylor, Forrest

“The rain finally came. In wetter portions of the county, planting of cotton and soybeans may be delayed. Cooler temperatures may slow down the emergence of crops, but warmer temperatures are coming!”

— Kay Emmons, Montgomery

“Good progress was made planting cotton and other crops this past week. Weekend rains will slow planting activities and other fieldwork for the start of this week.”

— Jerry Singleton, Leflore

“Bolivar County received various amounts of rainfall, but everyone got some beneficial rain. Crops continue to look good. We are off to a great start.”

— Don Respass, Bolivar

“Rust came in late on our wheat crop. Some producers didn't catch it in time and will suffer some yield loss. Rains continue to slow planting and fieldwork.”

— Mack Young, Quitman

“Even though cool temperatures have been lingering early this week, there was a lot of cottonseed put in the ground. Four-tenths to six-tenths of an inch of rain fell Thursday night, hopefully activating the cotton pre-emerge on the fields that have been planted.”

— Jimbo Burkhalter, Tallahatchie

“Rain stopped all fieldwork last week. We need some good days to continue planting soybeans and cotton.”

— Melvin Oatis, Benton

“Planting was fast and furious and cotton will be finished this week. The cotton is coming up well despite the two nights of 40 degree weather. We only got about an inch of rain out of all the storms last week.”

— Stephen R. Winters, Grenada

“Corn and soybean planting continued through the week. Emerged corn and soybeans appear to be in good condition. Some bean leaf beetle feeding was observed in soybeans. Limited acreage of cotton was planted with concerns of chilling injury. Large flushes of summer weeds and grasses have emerged in corn and soybeans.”

— Jay Phelps, Pontotoc

“We received some rain over the weekend. Ligustrum, honeysuckle and Louisiana Iris are in full bloom. Brown patch disease in turf is prevalent due to cool night temperatures.”

— Donna Beliech, Yazoo

“Rainfall has been variable over the area, with some areas getting well over 2 inches, while others received no more than one-half inch. Planting of cotton and soybeans will be delayed in wetter areas, while some farmers may begin planting Monday. Cooler temps may slow emergence of cotton and soybeans, but stands should still be in good shape.”

— Ernie Flint, Attala

“The rain finally came. In wetter portions of the county, planting of cotton and soybeans may be delayed. Cooler temperatures may slow down the emergence of crops, but warmer temperatures are coming!”

— Kay Emmons, Montgomery

“Sweetpotato planting is still about 7-to-10 days away. Plant beds are looking very good, but have some nutsedge problems.”

— Dr. Bill Burdine, Chickasaw

“Rain fell across most of the county Thursday through Saturday with a total rainfall of roughly three inches. Saturday afternoon high winds uprooted several trees, damaged roughly ten resident houses, did considerable damage to a dairy barn, and killed three dairy cows in the north portion of the county. Rains are a welcomed relief to dry soil moisture conditions experienced throughout March and April; however, ryegrass hay yields will be reduced by roughly fifty percent due to drought conditions. Corn is looking much better since the rains. Dairy producers are very happy that milk prices are increasing rapidly and only hope these higher prices will remain for several months.”

— Lamar Adams, Walthall

Additional comments appear on the Internet at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/ms/cwyears.htm>

This publication is part of a series that first began in 1872 and has been continuously published since. In Mississippi, this report is a result of the cooperative efforts of:

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Weather Summary from April 26, 2004 to May 2, 2004 for Mississippi

District/Station	Air Temperature					Precipitation				4 Inch Soil Temperature			Avg Pan Evap
	Max	Min	Avg	Norm	DFN	One Week	DFN	Rain Days	Four Weeks	Max	Min	Avg	
1. Upper Delta													
Charleston				65		1.14E	-0.16	4	7.78E				
Cleveland	79	49	65	66	-1	1.57	+0.38	4	5.61				
Tunica				66		1.33E	-0.00	4	4.93E				0.20
Extreme/Average	79	49	65	66	-1	1.36	+0.10	4	6.70				
2. North-Central													
HickoryFlat	83	41	62	63	-1	2.09	+0.83	3	6.68				
Calhoun City	78	42	63	65	-2	1.20	-0.11	4	5.12				
Independence	77	45	62	64	-2	1.02	-0.17	3	6.04				
Oxford	80	45	63	64	-1	2.57	+1.33	3	7.53				
Extreme/Average	83	41	63	64	-1	1.72	+0.46	3	6.34				
3. Northeast													
Booneville	80	44	65	64	+1	0.85	-0.45	2	3.60				
Iuka	77	36	60	61	-1	0.65	-0.63	3	3.37				
Ripley	77	41	61	63	-2	1.96	+0.70	3	6.07				
Tupelo	79	45	65			0.65		4	3.60				
Verona				65		0.84	-0.28	3	3.30				0.21
Extreme/Average	80	36	63	64	-1	1.03	-0.24	3	4.16				
4. LowerDelta													
Moorhead	79	53	67	68	-1	0.89	-0.37	3	5.35				
RollingFork	81	51	66	67	-1	1.56	+0.30	3	3.09	77	58	70	
Stoneville	82	51	66	68	-2	0.90	-0.36	3	5.19	85	63	71	0.20
YazooCity	80	50	65	68	-3	2.27	+0.94	3	5.57				
Extreme/Average	82	50	66	68	-2	1.41	+0.08	3	4.80	85	58	71	0.20
5. Central													
Canton	78	44	63	68	-5	1.59	+0.19	3	4.17				
Carthage	79	43	63	66	-3	1.90	+0.57	2	4.10				
Lexington	79	43	61	65	-4	1.83	+0.57	3	4.67				
Eupora	79	41	62	65	-3	1.08	-0.12	3	3.35				
Extreme/Average	79	41	63	66	-3	1.60	+0.30	3	4.07				
6. East-Central													
Aberdeen	79	43	63	65	-2	0.95	-0.27	4	3.33				0.20
Houston	83	40	62	64	-2	1.65	+0.46	4	4.50				
Louisville				65		1.70	+0.43	3	3.11				
StateUniversity	84	44	62	65	-3	1.39	+0.16	4	3.46	80	64	71	0.19
Extreme/Average	84	40	63	66	-3	1.42	+0.16	4	3.60	80	64	71	0.18
7. Southwest													
CrystalSprings	79	48	64	68	-4	2.94	+1.68	3	5.33	80	63	72	
Natchez	80	46	66	69	-3	2.90	+1.57	4	3.75				
Oakley	81	46	64	67	-3	3.49	+2.26	3	6.16	80	68	73	
Vicksburg	79	52	66			2.00		3	4.82				
Extreme/Average	81	46	65	68	-3	2.83	+1.50	3	5.02	80	63	73	
8. South-Central													
Collins				67		3.96	+2.64	3	4.82				
Columbia	82	48	66	68	-2	3.03	+1.70	4	3.65				
Tylertown	82	47	66	68	-2	5.50	+4.17	4	6.73				
Extreme/Average	82	47	66	68	-2	4.16	+2.83	4	5.07				
9. Southeast													
Beaumont	89	44	67			3.52		4	3.82				
Hattiesburg				69		2.66	+1.40	4	3.11				
Laurel	80	46	65	67	-2	5.25	+4.06	3	5.73				
Newton				65		3.27E	+2.08	4	4.57E				0.19
Extreme/Average	89	44	66	67	-1	3.68	+2.49	4	4.31				0.19
10.Coastal													
BayStLouis				69		6.19E	+4.93	5	6.51E				
Gulfport	80	52	69	71	-2	5.25	+4.03	4	7.17				
Pascagoula				68		2.68E	+1.53	4	3.43E				
Poplarville	83	49	67	69	-2	8.02	+6.76	4	8.62	78	64	71	
Waveland	80	52	69	69	0	4.90	+3.64	4	6.25				
Extreme/Average	83	49	68	70	-2	5.54	+4.32	4	6.43	78	64	71	0.20
State	89	36	65	67	-2	2.48	+1.21	3	4.91	85	58	71	

DFN = Departure from Normal.